

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

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DEPCHIEF JUSMAGTHAI

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

OICC THAILAND

S E C R E T VIENTIANE 2350

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINR, MASS, MAR, LA

SUBJECT: ADJUSTMENTS IN PROPOSED DEFENSE ATTACHE OFFICE

STAFFING PATTERN

REF: VIENTIANE 1525 (NOTAL)

BEGIN SUMMARY: WE HAVE ADJUSTED THE DAO STAFFING PLAN ORIGINALLY PROPOSED REFTL AND ARE NOW PLANNING THAT THE FORWARD SUPPORT GROUP IN DAO BE COMPOSED ENTIRELY OF MILITARY PERSONNEL AND THAT THE PSYOPS ADVISOR BE ATTACHED TO USIS OR THE EMBASSY RATHER THAN TRANSFERRED TO DAO. ASSIGNMENT OF THE THREE OICC PERSONNEL WILL BE DIVIDED, WITH MILITARY OFFICER ASSIGNED TO DAO AND TWO CIVILIAN EMPLOYEES ATTACHED TO USAID. CONTROL REGARDING WORK ON CIVILIAN PROJECTS WILL REMAIN WITH USAID.

ACTION REQUESTED: DECISION OF ACTION ADDRESSEES ON FUTURE SUPPORT ARRANGEMENTS FOR PSYOPS ADVISOR. END SUMMARY.

1. IN REFINING THE DAO STAFFING PATTERN OUTLINED REFTL, WE HAVE DEVELOPED SOME MINOR ADJUSTMENTS WHICH WE BELIEVE WILL BETTER AC-
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COMPLISH OUR BASIC OBJECTIVES OF RATIONALIZING ORGANIZATIONAL LINES AND CREATING AN IMAGE OF POSTIVE COMPLIANCE WITH THE VIENTIANE AND GENEVA AGREEMENTS ON LAOS WHILE, AT THE SAME TIME, ENABLING US TO MEET OUR OVERALL OBJECTIVES IN LAOS. THESE ADJUSTMENTS, AFFECTING THE COMPOSITION OF THE FORWARD SUPPORT GROUP, AND THE POSITION OF THE CIVILIAN PSYOPS ADVISOR, ARE OUTLINED IN PARAS TWO AND THREE BELOW FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND FOR DECISION ON FUTURE ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT ARRANGEMENTS FOR PSYOPS ADVISOR.

2. WE BELIEVE THAT, RATHER THAN DIVIDING THE FORWARD SUPPORT GROUP INTO MILITARY AND CIVILIAN PERSONNEL, IT WILL BE PREFERABLE FOR ALL MEMBERS OF THE GROUP AT THE PROFESSIONAL LEVEL TO BE MILITARY PERSONNEL, FUNCTIONING AS PART OF STAFF OF ACCREDITED ATTACHES. THIS PLAN HAS TWO PRINCIPAL MERITS. FROM A PERSONNEL- MANAGEMENT POINT OF VIEW, IT WOULD PERMIT A CLEARER LINE OF CONTROL, A MORE RATIONAL STAFFING PATTERN, AND GREATER FLEXIBILITY. DAO WOULD STILL REMAIN WITHIN THE CEILING OF 30 MILITARY SPACES PRESCRIBED IN GUIDANCE UNDER WHICH WE HAVE BEEN WORKING. SECONDLY, THIS ADJUSTMENT WOULD MAKE MORE PERSUASIVE THE ARGUMENT THAT USG IS COMPLYING WITH GENEVA AND VIENTIANE AGREEMENTS ON LAOS. IN COMPLIANCE WITH THOSE AGREEMENTS, WE WILL BE ELIMINATING ADVISORY, TRAINING AND CERTAIN LOGISTICAL FUNCTIONS NOW BEING PERFORMED IN THE USAID REQUIREMENTS OFFICE (USAID/ RO). WE ARE SHIFTING THOSE FUNCTIONS REQUIRED TO PROCESS REQUESTS FOR CONVENTIONAL ARMAMENTS MADE BY THE RLG UNDER ARTICLE SIX OF THE GENEVA ACCORDS (HITHERTO PERFORMED IN THE USAID/ RO) TO THE FORWARD SUPPORT GROUP IN DAO, BECAUSE, UNDER THE ACCEPTED INTERPRETATION OF THE 1962 AGREEMENTS, THE PROVISIONS SPECIFICALLY EXCLUDING MILITARY AND PARA- MILITARY PERSONNEL DO NOT APPLY TO MILITARY ATTACHES. THE USE OF MILITARY OFFICERS, ASSOCIATED WITH TRADITIONAL ATTACHE FUNCTIONS, WOULD MAKE OUR APPLICATION OF THIS INTERPRETATION LESS SUSCEPTIBLE TO QUESTIONING OR CRITICISM. OUR ORIGINAL PLAN HAD BEEN TO SHIFT FIVE EXPERIENCED CIVILIANS DIRECTLY FROM USAID/ RO TO THE DAO FORWARD SUPPORT GROUP; BUT, AS PLANNING PROGRESSED, WE BECAME INCREASINGLY AWARE THAT DIRECT TRANSFERS OF THE SAME EMPLOYEES FROM ONE OFFICE TO ANOTHER MIGHT EASILY BE INTERPRETED AS A USG SUBTERFUGE OR DISINGENUOUS ATTEMPT TO " LEGITIMIZE" THESE EMPLOYEES. SUCH AN OUTCOME WOULD UNDERCUT THE ACHIEVEMENT OF OUR OBJECTIVES IN THIS EXERCISE. IN ORDER TO RETAIN THE EXPERIENCE OF THE FIVE CIVILIANS INVOLVED, WE ARE CONSIDERING MOVING THEM TO UDORN, WHERE THEIR PARTICULAR TALENTS COULD BE EMPLOYED BY DEPCHEIF. THE ADMINISTRATIVE PROBLEMS THIS MOVE INVOLVES AND THE PERSONAL DESIRES OF THE INDIVIDUALS CONCERNED ARE NOW UNDER STUDY. THOSE RO CIVILIANS NOT TRANSFERRED TO

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CERNED ARE NOW UNDER STUDY. THOSE RO CIVILIANS NOT TRANSFERRED TO

UDORN WOULD BE PHASED OUT OR INTEGRATED WITHIN USAID IN LEGITIMATE AID POSITIONS.

3. WE NOW BELIEVE THE ONE CIVILIANS PSYOPS ADVISOR (CALLED SPECIAL PROJECTS OFFICER) SHOULD BE ATTACHED TO USIS OR POSSIBLY TO THE EMBASSY, RATHER THAN TRANSFERRED TO THE DAO, AS ORIGINALLY PROPOSED. ALTHOUGH THIS DOD CIVILIAN PSYOPS ADVISOR'S ACTIVITIES DEAL PRIMARILY WITH FAR AND ARE FUNDED BY DOD TO SUPPORT THE FAR PSYWAR BATTALION, IT HAS BECOME STRIKINGLY APPARENT IN DRAWING UP A STAFFING ROSTER FOR THE DAO THAT THE ADVISOR'S ACTIVITIES DO NOT OTHERWISE FIT INTO ANY PATTERN OF DAO FUNCTIONS. IN FACT, THE NATURE OF FUTURE OPERATIONS AS ENVISAGED BY SOME FAR PLANNERS INVOLVES PROMOTING ALLEGIANCE TO THE NON- COMMUNIST CAUSE AMONG CIVILIANS, WHICH DOES NOT APPEAR TO BE AN APPROPRIATE FUNCTION FOR THE PROPOSED DAO. THE PSYOPS ADVISOR IS NOW PHYSICALLY LOCATED IN USIS AND HAS A CERTAIN SYMBIOTIC RELATIONSHIP WITH HIS USIS COLLEAGUES WHO, IN WORKING WITH CIVILIAN RLG AGENCIES ON PUBLIC AFFAIRS QUESTIONS, ENCOUNTER SIMILAR PROBLEMS REGARDING EQUIPMENT, PROCEDURES, PERSONNEL AND PUBLIC INFORMATION OBJECTIVES. THE PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER'S RESPONSIBILITY FOR PROVIDING POLICY GUIDANCE AND PROGRAM DIRECTION WOULD ALSO BE FACILITATED IF THE ADVISOR CONTINUES TO BE LOCATED IN USIS. IT MUST BE NOTED THAT THIS ADVISOR, WHILE PHYSICALLY LOCATED IN THE USIS BUILDING, IS NOT REPEAT NOT A PART OF THE USIS COMPLEMENT AT THIS TIME. HE IS A MEMBER OF THE PROJECT 404 AUGMENTATION AND RECEIVES ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT FROM ARMA. SEPARATING THE ADVISOR FROM ARMA, OF COURSE, RAISES THE QUESTION WHETHER ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT, INCLUDING HOUSING, TRANSPORT, CONTRACTOR AND CLERICAL SERVICES, SHOULD BE PROVIDED BY THE DAO OR, ON A REIMBURSABLE BASIS, BY USIS OR THE EMBASSY. WE REQUEST DECISION OF ACTION ADDRESSEES ON THIS QUESTION.

4. DEPCHIEF HAS BEEN QUERIED THROUGH MILITARY CHANNELS REGARDING THE RETENTION OF DEFENSE LANGUAGE INSTITUTE (DLI) PERSONNEL IN LAOS ATTACHED TO THE PROPOSED DAO. THE DLI ENGLISH LANGUAGE TRAINING IS USED TO PREPARE LAO MILITARY PERSONNEL TO ATTEND COURSES OF MILITARY INSTRUCTION IN THE US, LAOS AND THAILAND. WE BELIEVE THAT ITS CONTINUANCE IS INCOMPATIBLE WITH THE GENEVA AGREEMENTS, WHICH RESERVE TO FRENCH MILITARY INSTRUCTORS THE TRAINING OF LAO ARMED FORCES. THE FAR NOW HAS 45-50 QUALIFIED ENGLISH LANGUAGE INSTRUCTORS, AND THIS NUMBER SHOULD RISE TO 73 BY JULY 1. WE BELIEVE THAT WITH THE USE OF THIS MANPOWER RESOURCE AND OTHER LANGUAGE TRAINING CAPABILITIES

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LOCALLY AVAILABLE, THE LAO THEMSELVES SHOULD BE ABLE TO PROVIDE NECESSARY ENGLISH INSTRUCTION. WE THEREFORE, DO NOT RPT NOT ENVISAGE THE CONTINUANCE OF ANY DLI PERSONNEL IN THE DAO.

5. THE QUESTION OF THE FUTURE OF OICC HAS ALSO ARISEN IN MILITARY

CHANNELS. WE PLAN A SPLIT ARRANGEMENT WHICH WOULD RECOGNIZE THE DUAL MILITARY/ CIVILIAN FUNCTIONS NOW BEING PERFORMED BY THE ONE MILITARY OFFICER AND TWO AMERICAN CIVILIANS IN OICC. THE MILITARY OFFICER WILL BE PLACED IN DAO FOR ADMINISTRATIVE PURPOSES. HE WILL, HOWEVER, CONTINUE TO BE RESPONSIBLE TO THE AREA OICC IN BANGKOK FOR WORK RELATED TO MILITARY CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS NOW UNDER CONTRACT OR UNDERWAY. THE TWO AMERICAN CIVILIANS WILL REMAIN ATTACHED TO US-AID AND WILL RECEIVE DIRECTION FROM USAID ON WORK PERFORMED ON USAID-FUNDED PROJECTS. (OICC IS REQUIRED FOR CIVILIAN PROJECTS BECAUSE IT SERVES AS ARCHITECT AND ENGINEER, CONTRACTING AUTHORITY AND CONTRACT SUPERVISOR. IF OICC IS TO BE WITHDRAWN, USAID MUST HAVE SIX MONTHS ADVANCE NOTICE IN ORDER TO MAKE ALTERNATIVE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THESE SERVICES.

6. WE ARE NOW DRAWING UP A REVISED STAFFING PATTERN FOR THE DAO,

INCORPORATING FOREGOING ADJUSTMENTS, WHICH WILL DEFINE IN SOME DETAIL THE FUNCTIONS OF THE VARIOUS DAO PERSONNEL. THIS WILL BE TRANSMITTED TO ADDRESSEES IN THE NEAR FUTURE.
GODLEY

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